

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 8. 1712.

IN my last I hinted, that I expected from the Wisdom and Prudence of the *Dutch*, that the Consequences of carrying on the War against *France* by the Confederates, *without us*, and which I said must Inevitably be a War between them and Us, would be prevented—And I say so still.

I cannot but believe it, I know the Dutch are neither Ignorant of, or unconcern'd for the true Interest of their Country in particular, or the Protestant Interest in General; and it cannot be of so little value to them, as not to move them to for-

get a great many Things which they might otherwise insist upon.

I know the *Dutch* being first secure in their own Affairs, and the Safety of their own State being provided for, will consider very seriously before they break with *Great Britain*; the Interest of their Trade is Interwoven so many Ways, and will, in Case of a War, so many Ways suffer, that it must be something very pressing, that must constrain them in this Case.

Let any one consider the State of the Commerce of the *Dutch*, when *England*, *France*, and *Spain* should at once prohibit Trade with them; when the *English* and *French* Fleets

Fleets should spread the Seas against them, and in all parts of the World oppose them: What part of the World would be open to them? What Prince in the World could support them? The Emperor and the Princes of *Germany*, for whom, and on whose Account they would run all this Risk; could give them no Assistance that Way, nor offer any Equivalent to them for the Loss of their Commerce; there would want but one Clause in such a Case to Ruin them totally, viz. For the Queen of *Great Britain* and the King of *France* to fall upon the King of *Danemark*, a poor, a weak, and inconsiderable Prince, and oblige him to shut up the *Sound* against them, or those to do it whether he will or no, this would complete the Ruin of their State, and effectually starve their People; the supply of Corn from *Danzick*, upon which their whole Nation depends, being thereby cut off, and the Exportation of their Fish, which is the Essential dependance of their Navigation, being also stop'd.

Let any Man reflect upon the Circumstances of the *Dutch* in such a Case, and the probability of this being their Case, and tell me, whether it be likely the *States-General* will Embark in such Alliances or Measures, as must inevitably bring them into a War with *Great Britain*.

On the other Hand, let them Examine what it must be for, that they are suppos'd to run all this Hazard? — It must be for their own Security, or for the Interest of the Emperor; as to the first, all the Demands they have ever made, amounts to only two Heads; *The Barrier in Flanders*, and *the Tarriffe of Trade*; both these are mention'd in the Queen's Account of the Peace, only with some Limitations or Exceptions, which perhaps may be so much less than the *Dutch* would have; however, the most can be said then, is, that if they carry on the War any longer, it is only for those Towns, and for that Article of Trade which is offer'd less than before, and for the Interest of the Emperor; to the first I answer, 'tis pity either the *Dutch* should not part with those Exceptions, or that

France should not be oblig'd to yield them, rather than such a War as this, and at such an Expence of Blood and Money, so fatal to *Europe*, and so Ruinous to every Side, should be continu'd; as for the Emperor, I shall always say my Mind freely; were the rest of the *Spanish Monarchy* given to any one else but King *Philip*, I think the Emperor has enough, and ought to be satisfied; how the rest is bestow'd, and how *Europe* is secur'd in the Partition, is not my present Debate.

But upon the whole, I cannot believe the *States-General*, who are a wise and Prudent People, will continue such a War as this is, and venture all the terrible Consequences of Quarrelling with us, who, as I said before, cannot stand Neuter, for Things on their own Side which are so near being satisfied, and for a Thing for the Emperor which they can never obtain, and which it cannot be their Interest he should enjoy; and on these Accounts it is, that I still profess to hope, the *Dutch* will come into the Peace.

I do not say in all this, that I approve or disapprove of the Peace, and tho' it be not to the purpose, I am very free to say, I wish the Scheme of Peace could have been made on better Terms, yet am glad it is not made upon worse — But my present View, is to Represent the Danger and the Consequence of a War with the *Dutch*; how inevitable it is with all its ill Consequences, if the *Dutch* do not come in to the present Measures, and how easily it may be prevented, if they do.

As to giving Satisfaction to the Emperor, I do not see it practicable, while he insists upon the *Spanish Monarchy*, which I am still of the same Mind was never intended to be given him, and therefore, if the *Dutch* can but be brought to accept of the Peace, or rather the Peace be brought to such a Head, that the *Dutch* may be satisfied, I have no other Concern for the Emperor, than that he may have what is allotted him.

But

But I am ask'd here, What then have we been fighting for all this while? Did we not begin the War for these two great Ends? *viz.* To pull down France, and to give the whole Spanish Monarchy to the Emperor.

My Answer is plain and short; we fought for neither of these, nor does any Man, as Things are now stated, desire them; I desire to explain myself, for I know who they are that watch for my halting, and these are the Things which have turn'd my Zeal for the War into an earnest desire of Peace; I say it again, we neither fought to pull down France, or to give the Spanish Monarchy to the Emperor; and this I shall make out.

It is true, That we fought to humble the Exorbitant Pride, and to pull down the Exorbitant Power of France, but we did not fight to dethrone the French King, or to dissolve the Kingdom of France; and therefore they who once insisted upon Restoring the Protestant Religion, and Restoring the People of France to their former Liberties, the Parliaments, Nobility, and Counsellors of France to their Ancient Authority, were told formerly at the Peace of Ryswick, and lately too, that these Things were not Concern'd in this War, but that this was only a War to restore Peace, and bring Europe to a Balance of Power. I Appeal to the most disinterested Judgment of the other Opinion, for the Truth of this.

It is True, We fought to put the Spanish Monarchy into the possession of the House of Austria, while ther was a Male Branch of that House in being, to receive and enjoy it, who was not Emperor; and no Man in his Senses could then have been of any other Opinion, but that Charles III. ought at least, to have had the greatest part of it, viz. Spain and the Indies, all this is granted; but we never fought with any such Design, or with the least Thought of giving the Monarchy of

Spain into the Hands of AN EMPEROR of Germany; this had been to slay one Monster, and Erect a Monster more Dangerous, in his Room; and this part I shall prove, beyond all Reasonable Objection.

I need not repeat all the Arguments on this Account, which have been used already, and which neither have, or ever will be answer'd; I shall only mention one that has been spoken before, and one that has not.

If it ever was the Design of the Confederates, that as the Consequence of the War, the Monarchy of Spain and the Empire of Germany, should ever come into the Government of the same Person, Why then, at the Grand Alliance, was that absurd Step taken, to pass by the Emperor then living; and the King of the Romans, who were the next Heirs; and settle it BY GIFT, mark that Word, on the Youngest Son, who had nothing but a Presumptive Claim, and this at the same time, which made the fest the Courser, when they were crying down the Claim of King Philip, as Unjust, because it was A GIFT? I fairly Challenge all the Advocates for this Case, to shew me any one Reason for this Transaction, other than this, that it was a receiv'd Principle among the Allies, *That it was by no means safe to Europe's Peace, to have the Empire of Germany and the Monarchy of Spain fall into the same Hands* — This no Man has ever yet Answer'd and I am not Arrogant in saying, I think, they never can.

Again, why, in former Treaties (particularly both the Treaties of Partition) Wisely made, tho' Basely broken, and more stupidly Censur'd here, was an Express Renunciation of the Monarchy of Spain appointed to be made by the Emperor of Germany, upon receiving the Share allotted to him and his Son? *vide 7th Article of the first Treaty of Partition* — And above all, let them read the following Words, being part of the 19th Article of the Second Treaty of Partition, and then let them say farther.

If the most Serene Arch-Duke should die without Children, &c. The Share, viz. Spain and the Indies, which is assign'd to him by the Articles of this Treaty, shall come to such Male Child of the Emperor, (except the King of the Romans) or such Children Males, or, &c. of the King of the Romans, as his Imperial Majesty shall assign it to; But ON, CONDITION, (mark the Words) that the said part (Spain and the Indies) shall NEVER be limited nor belong to the Person of him, who shall be Emperor, or King of the Romans, or is become one or the other; be it be by Succession, Will, Contract of Marriage, Donation, Exchange, Cession, Appeal, Revolt, or otherwise.

Can any Thing be more plain? Here is the Emperor Excepted, and the King of the Romans excepted, because he is suppos'd to be Emperor, and all the Emperors who are, or ever shall be on the Throne excepted, as not fit to possess the

the Crown of Spain and the Empire at the same Time; certainly the People of this Day never read this Article, nor will many I dare say, believe that ever such a Thing was Articled in the World.

Here Gentlemen! is King William's Authority for all I have said, and that I have always own'd to be the Original of my Opinion, viz. That the Kingdom of Spain ought never to be given to the same Person, who at the same time should be Emperor or King of the Romans — And let the Opposers of it shew a better Authority against it if they can; I make no doubt, when Prejudices and Party-Storms are worn off, and a little allay'd, the Reason of all I have said on this Head will appear.

It may not be improper to put the above Quotation by Way of Advertisement, in every Review for a Month, that the more People may have their Eyes opened by it, for the want of knowing this, has deluded Thousands of well-meaning People among us.

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